

INFORMATION REPORT
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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Proposed Measures for the Improvement
of Chemical Research in the DDR

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1. [] Professor Dr. Heinrich Bertsch of Hauptverwaltung Chemie, DDR Ministry for Heavy Industry, called a meeting in which cooperation between the Hauptverwaltung Chemie and the chemical institutes of DDR universities was discussed. Emphasis was placed on fulfillment of the Five Year Plan. The Central Office for Research and Technique, State Planning Commission, was represented at this meeting by Dr. (fnu) Panning. Representatives of the chemical industry and directors of most of the chemical institutes affiliated with DDR universities (with the exception of Rostock and Greifswald) were also present.
2. At this meeting Bertsch suggested that chemical-technological research be concentrated under the auspices of Hauptverwaltung Chemie in a few large institutes. He felt that better coordinated research on Five Year Plan requirements would thus be achieved. The institutes would also have the task of training young students in technical fields. In this way, the shortage of experts for several crucial fields would be slowly overcome. Bertsch cited aniline production and the production of intermediary products for the pharmaceutical and dye industries as being fields which suffer seriously from a lack of adequately trained and experienced personnel. Bertsch declared that he could, at any time, make funds available for the construction and equipment of large institutes for the above purposes, as soon as he found adequate personnel to direct and build up such institutes. Also, in order to develop chemical research to a higher degree of efficiency, Bertsch announced that the Ministry for Heavy Industry would transfer persons who are fit for research work from the chemical-industrial sector to research institutes. Such persons would be paid, after transfer, by the Ministry.
3. It was furthermore decided in the meeting that, in addition to an annual chemical convention open to all DDR chemists, four smaller colloquia for a maximum of 50 to 60 persons would be held every year. Each colloquium is to deal with a special problem. Following is the tentative schedule for 1952 colloquia:
 - a. 8 February 1952 in Dresden: Spectroscopy
 - b. End of April 1952 in Halle: Aliphatic chemistry, particularly carbonic acids

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- c. Summer 1952 in Rostock: Catalysis and adsorption
- d. Winter 1952 in Berlin: Problems of inorganic chemistry
- 4. Up to mid-January 1952, only one DDR chemist had declared himself ready to undertake increased research with funds provided by Bertsch. He is Professor Dr. Erich Thilo, a member of the so-called German Academy of Sciences and the head of the Chemical Institute in Berlin-Adlershof. He volunteered to carry out research necessary for large-scale production of SO_3 from magnesium sulfate, an important requirement of the Five Year Plan.

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Comment: The DDR Ministry for Heavy Industry no longer exists as such. Following the reorganization of November 1951, the Hauptverwaltung Chemie was transferred to the DDR State Secretariat Chemie - Steine und Erden.

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